United Nations

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

General Assembly

Official Records • Fifty-second Session
Supplement No. 27 (A/52/27)

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United Nations • New York, 1997

NOTE

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ISSN 0257-0645

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference on Disarmament submits to the fifty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly its annual report on its 1997 session, together with the pertinent documents and records.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A. 1997 Session of the Conference

2. The Conference was in session from 20 January to 27 March, 12 May to 27 June and 28 July to 10 September 1997. During this period, the Conference held 28 formal plenary meetings, at which member States as well as non-member States invited to participate in the discussions set forth their views and recommendations on the various questions before the Conference.

3. The Conference also held 31 informal meetings on its agenda, programme of work, organization and procedures, as well as on items of its agenda and other matters.

4. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the following member States assumed successively the Presidency of the Conference: Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia and Sri Lanka. */

B. Participants in the Work of the Conference

5. Representatives of the following member States participated in the work of the Conference: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba,

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*/ See CD/PV.774.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe.

C. Agenda and Programme of Work for the 1997 Session

6. At the 755th plenary meeting on 14 February 1997, the Conference adopted its agenda for the 1997 session in conformity with the rules of procedure. The agenda (CD/1446) reads as follows:

"Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and pending the conclusion of its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 1997 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.
2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.
3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.
4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.
6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.
7. Transparency in armaments.
8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations."

7. After the adoption of the agenda, the President made the following statement: "In connection with the adoption of this agenda, I, as the President of the CD, should like to state that it is my understanding that if there is a consensus in the Conference to deal with any issues, they could be dealt with within this agenda".

8. Throughout the session, successive Presidents of the Conference conducted intensive consultations with a view to reaching consensus on the programme of work. However, it was not possible to establish any negotiating mechanism on any of the substantive items on the agenda, nor to establish any other mechanisms, apart from the appointment of the four Special Coordinators mentioned below. Also, during plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations expressed their views on the issue. These are duly reflected in plenary records.

9. The following documents relating to the issue were presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1450, dated 20 March 1997, submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled "Proposal on The Programme of Work".

(b) CD/1456, dated 15 May 1997, submitted by the delegation of Canada, entitled "Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work".

(c) CD/1462, dated 5 June 1997, submitted by the Group of 21, entitled "Proposal on the Programme of Work"

10. At the 770th plenary meeting on 26 June 1997, the Conference appointed Ambassador John Campbell of Australia as Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines under agenda item 6 on the basis of the decision (CD/1466) which reads as follows:

"Without prejudice to, and within the context of, its urgent ongoing efforts to establish a Programme of Work for its 1997 session

and to set up mechanisms, as appropriate, for other agenda items of the Conference, and in order to facilitate these efforts, the Conference on Disarmament decides:

1. To appoint a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines under agenda item 6.

2. The Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant proposals and views, present and future.

3. The Special Coordinator shall present an early report to the Conference on Disarmament."

At the same plenary meeting, the Conference appointed Ambassador Harald Kreid of Austria as Special Coordinator on the question of the expansion of its membership, Ambassador Mounir Zahran of Egypt as Special Coordinator on its improved and effective functioning and Ambassador Péter Náray of Hungary as Special Coordinator on the review of its agenda.

D. Attendance and Participation of States not Members of the Conference

11. In conformity with rule 32 of the rules of procedure, the States not members of the Conference listed under the following paragraph attended its plenary meetings.

12. The Conference received and considered requests for participation in its work from States not members of the Conference. In accordance with the rules of procedure and its decision taken at its 1990 session on its improved and effective functioning (CD/1036), the Conference invited the following non-member States to participate in its work: Armenia, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Oman, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zambia.

E. Expansion of the Membership of the Conference

13. The importance attached to the question of the expansion of its membership was duly recognized by the Conference and is reflected in the statements made by delegations in plenary meetings.

14. Requests for membership had been received, since 1982, from the following non-members, in chronological order: Ireland, Tunisia, Ecuador, Greece, Croatia, Kuwait, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Denmark, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Cyprus, Kazakstan, Lithuania, Ghana, Luxembourg, Uruguay and Philippines.

15. The following documents relating to the issue were presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1438 and Corr.1, dated 25 November 1996, entitled "Letter dated 23 October 1996 addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Representative of Turkey".

(b) CD/1439, dated 13 December 1996, entitled "Letter addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus".

(c) CD/1448, dated 13 March 1997, entitled "Letter dated 11 March 1997 addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office in Geneva transmitting a letter by H.E. Zoran Thaler Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia to the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament".

16. In discharging his mandate, the Special Coordinator held a number of bilateral and open-ended consultations with members and participating non-

members of the Conference, and presented his report in a statement at the 776th plenary meeting on 28 August 1997 (CD/PV.776).

F. Review of the Agenda of the Conference

17. The Conference continued to attach importance to the review of its agenda. The issue was addressed by delegations in plenary as well as in informal meetings. In discharging his mandate, the Special Coordinator held a number of bilateral and open-ended consultations with members and participating non-members of the Conference, and presented his report in a statement at the 776th plenary meeting on 28 August 1997 (CD/PV.776).

G. Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference

18. The Conference continued to recognize the importance of its improved and effective functioning. The issue was addressed by delegations in plenary as well as in informal meetings.

19. The following document relating to the issue was presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1473, dated 14 August 1997, entitled "Letter dated 14 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Chile addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a proposal entitled: 'Suggestions for Updating the CD's Rules of Procedure', including a 'Proposed draft'".

20. In discharging his mandate, the Special Coordinator held a number of bilateral and open-ended consultations with members and participating non-members of the Conference, and presented his report in a statement at the 776th plenary meeting on 28 August 1997(CD/PV.776).

III. SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE DURING ITS 1997 SESSION

21. The substantive work of the Conference during its 1997 session was based on its agenda and related to its programme of work. The list of documents issued by the Conference, as well as the texts of those documents, are included as appendix I to the report. An index of the verbatim records by country and subject, listing the statements made by delegations during 1997, and the verbatim records of the meetings of the Conference, are attached as appendix II to the report.

22. The Conference had before it a letter dated 9 January 1997 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations (CD/1440) transmitting all the resolutions dealing with or related to disarmament and international security adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session in 1996, including those making specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament:

51/37 "Prohibition of the development, and manufacture of new types of weapon of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons" (operative paras. 2 and 5)

51/43 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" (operative paras. 2, 4 and 5)

51/44 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (operative paras. 5, 6 and 8)

51/45 E "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of the agreements on disarmament and arms control" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/45 H "Transparency in armaments" (operative para. 5)

51/45 I "Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 5 and 6)

51/45 J "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" (operative paras. 1, 4 and 5)

51/45 K "Regional disarmament" (operative para. 1)

51/45 O "Nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 5 and 6)

51/45 Q "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" (operative para. 2)

51/46 D "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/47 A "Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/47 B "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (operative para. 5)

51/47 C "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8)

23. At its 753rd plenary meeting on 30 January 1997 the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Conference. On this occasion, he stressed the importance he attached to the work of the Conference as the sole multilateral forum for negotiating measures of disarmament and its role in advancing one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations: the maintenance of international peace and security.

A. Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament

24. The Conference did not establish any Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during its 1997 session. Several proposals were made under this agenda item. A number of delegations proposed the reestablishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or

other nuclear explosive devices. Other delegations proposed that an Ad Hoc Committee be established on nuclear disarmament, under which the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would be included. Other proposals were made for the appointment of a special coordinator on nuclear disarmament.

25. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session as well as in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 41-56 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173) and related official documents and working papers.

Proposals for the "Prohibition of the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices"

26. At the 770th plenary meeting on 26 June 1997, the delegation of Germany, drawing on earlier statements of several representatives of other Member States, proposed the reestablishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator on this subject and the mandate contained therein (CD/1299).

27. This proposal did not command consensus and the Conference did not reestablish an Ad Hoc Committee on this issue during its 1997 session.

28. The following documents dealing with this issue were presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1441, dated 22 January 1997, entitled "Letter dated 21 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement by President Clinton for the opening of the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament".

(b) CD/1456, dated 15 May 1997, submitted by the delegation of Canada, entitled "Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work".

Proposals for the "Cessation of the Nuclear Arms Race and Nuclear Disarmament"

29. At the 766th plenary meeting on 5 June 1997, the Group of 21, supported by a number of other delegations, submitted a Programme of Work for the Conference for its 1997 session (CD/1462) which, inter alia, called for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on agenda item 1 "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament".

30. At the 767th plenary meeting on 12 June 1997, twenty-six delegations belonging to the Group of 21, supported by a number of other delegations, submitted a proposal (CD/1463) for a mandate for an ad hoc committee under agenda item 1 on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time envisaging the creation of Working Groups to negotiate (a) as a first step a universal and legally-binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objective of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, (b) an agreement on further steps required in a phased programme with time frames leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and (c) a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the special coordinator on this item (CD/1299) and the views relating to the scope of the treaty.

31. These proposals did not command consensus and the Conference did not establish an Ad Hoc Committee under this agenda item during the 1997 session to deal with any of the issues.

32. At the 755th plenary meeting on 13 February 1997, the delegation of Japan presented a proposal for the appointment of a special coordinator on nuclear disarmament (CD/1445).

33. At the 761st plenary meeting on 20 March 1997, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented a proposal on the programme of work of the Conference which, inter alia, proposed the appointment of a special coordinator to seek the views of its members on the most appropriate arrangement to deal with the issues under agenda item 1 (CD/1450).

34. At the 763rd plenary meeting on 15 May 1997, the delegation of Egypt presented a proposal for a possible mandate of an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament (CD/1453).

35. These proposals were not put for a decision by the Conference.

36. In addition to the documents referred to above, the following documents were submitted to the Conference under the agenda item:

(a) CD/1456, dated 15 May 1997, submitted by the delegation of Canada, entitled "Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work".

(b) CD/1457 and Corr.1, dated 15 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 15 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of India addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the section on 'Disarmament and International Security' of the Final Document adopted at the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in New Delhi, 7-8 April 1997".

(c) CD/1460, dated 26 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 14 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting four documents signed at the Joint U.S.-Russian Summit Meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, on 21 March 1997, namely: A Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces, A Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation concerning the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, A Joint U.S.-Russian statement on European Security and A Joint Statement on Chemical Weapons".

B. Prevention of Nuclear War, including all Related Matters

37. The Conference on Disarmament did not establish an Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during the 1997 session. No new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 1997 session.

38. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 62-71 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173), related official documents and working papers, as well as plenary records.

C. Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

39. The Conference on Disarmament did not reestablish an Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during its 1997 session. No new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 1997 session.

40. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session, as well as in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraph 32 of the 1994 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1281) and related official documents and working papers.

D. Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons

41. The Conference did not reestablish the Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during its 1997 session. No new documents were submitted to the Conference specifically under the agenda item during the 1997 session.

42. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed

descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session, as well as in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraph 33 of the 1994 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1281) and related official documents and working papers.

E. New Types of Weapons of Mass Destruction and New Systems of Such Weapons; Radiological Weapons

43. The Conference did not establish an Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during the 1997 session. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the previous annual reports of the Conference, related official documents and working papers, as well as plenary records. The status of work on the agenda item is reflected in paragraphs 79-82 of the 1992 report of the Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173).

F. Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament

44. The Conference did not establish an Ad Hoc Committee on this agenda item during the 1997 session. During plenary meetings of the Conference, some delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraphs 83-89 of the 1992 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1173), related official documents and working papers, as well as plenary records.

Proposals for "a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines"

45. In the course of the 1997 session of the Conference, proposals were presented, supported by a number of other delegations, for a draft mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on a "Ban on Antipersonnel Landmines". These proposals were as follows:

- CD/1443, dated 30 January 1997, submitted by the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, entitled "Proposal for a draft mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on a 'Ban on anti-personnel landmines'"

- CD/1455, dated 15 May 1997, submitted by the delegations of Hungary and Japan, entitled "Draft mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on a 'Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines'".

46. These proposals were not put for a decision by the Conference.

47. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations elaborated their respective positions on this issue, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session.

48. In addition to the documents mentioned in paragraph 45, the following documents dealing with this issue were presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1441, dated 22 January 1997, entitled "Letter dated 21 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement by President Clinton for the opening of the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament".

(b) CD/1442, dated 22 January 1997, entitled "Letter dated 21 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement by the Press Secretary of The White House and a Fact Sheet on the United States' initiatives on anti-personnel landmines".

(c) CD/1444, dated 4 February 1997, entitled "Letter dated 29 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of Austria transmitting the 'Federal Law on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines' adopted by the Austrian Parliament".

(d) CD/1450, dated 20 March 1997, submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled "Proposal on The Programme of Work".

(e) CD/1451, dated 26 March 1997, entitled "Letter dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a press statement dated 20 February 1997 by the Minister of Defence concerning the policy of the South African Government on anti-personnel landmines and the message from President Mandela to the Fourth International NGO Conference on Landmines, Maputo, 25 to 28 February 1997".

(f) CD/1452, dated 27 March 1997, submitted by the delegations of Chile, Finland and Poland, entitled "Proposal to appoint a Special Coordinator on Anti-Personnel Landmines".

(g) CD/1456, dated 15 May 1997, submitted by the delegation of Canada, entitled "Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work".

(h) CD/1458, dated 22 May 1997, submitted by the delegation of Australia entitled "Draft decision".

(i) CD/1459, dated 22 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 21 May 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, transmitting a summary of the International Expert Meeting on Possible Verification Measures for a Convention to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines, held in Königswinter, Germany, on 24 and 25 April 1997".

(j) CD/1461, dated 28 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 22 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting two publications entitled 'Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography' and 'Anti-Personnel Land Mines Ban: An Annotated Bibliography'".

(k) CD/1462, dated 5 June 1997, submitted by the Group of 21, entitled "Proposal on the Programme of Work".

(l) CD/1464, dated 17 June 1997, entitled "Letter dated 17 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Italy addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement of the Italian Government on the policy of anti-personnel landmines issued on 13 June 1997".

(m) CD/1465, dated 19 June 1997, submitted by the delegation of Australia, entitled "Draft decision".

(n) CD/1467, dated 16 July 1997, entitled "Letter dated 9 July 1997 addressed to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament by the Office of the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Conference on Disarmament, transmitting the Closing Document of the Brussels International Conference for a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines".

(o) CD/1468, dated 22 July 1997, entitled "Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a copy of the Report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the 'Issue of Anti-Personnel Landmines and International Efforts to Reach a Total Ban', and the Report on the First Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19-21 May 1997".

(p) CD/1472, dated 13 August 1997, entitled "Note verbale dated 13 August 1997 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakstan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan on the decision of the Government concerning the prohibition of export of anti-personnel landmines".

(q) CD/1474, dated 27 August 1997, submitted by the delegations of Chile and Poland, entitled "Anti-personnel Landmines".

(r) CD/1475, dated 9 September 1997, submitted by the delegation of Mexico, entitled "Declaration on the question of the consultations by the Special Coordinator on Anti-Personnel Landmines in the Conference on Disarmament".

49. In discharging his mandate, the Special Coordinator appointed to conduct consultations on a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines held a number of bilateral consultations and presented his reports in statements made on 14 August and 28 August 1997 respectively (CD/PV.774 and CD/PV.776).

G. Transparency in Armaments

50. The Conference did not reestablish an ad hoc committee on this agenda item during its 1997 session. During plenary meetings of the Conference, delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions on the agenda item, the detailed descriptions of which were duly recorded in the plenary records of this session, as well as in the previous annual reports of the Conference, in particular paragraph 36 of the 1994 report to the General Assembly of the United Nations (CD/1281)and related official documents and working papers.

51. The following document dealing with this issue was presented to the Conference:

(a) CD/1450, dated 20 March 1997, submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, entitled "Proposal on The Programme of Work".

H. Consideration of Other Areas Dealing with the Cessation of the Arms Race and Disarmament and Other Relevant Measures

52. During its 1997 session, the Conference also had before it the following documents:

(a) CD/1437, dated 8 October 1996, entitled "Letter dated 3 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakstan addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement made at Almaty on 27 September 1996 by the President of Kazakstan concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty".

(b) CD/1447, dated 17 February 1997, entitled "Letter dated 17 February 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a copy of a Presidential statement issued in honour of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco".

(c) CD/1449, dated 18 March 1997, entitled "Letter dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of the accession of a representative of the Russian Federation to the post of President of the Conference on Disarmament".

(d) CD/1454, dated 13 May 1997, entitled "Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a message from the President of the Russian Federation to the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and an appeal to the Conference from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation".

(e) CD/1457 and Corr.1, dated 15 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 15 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of India addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the section on 'Disarmament and International Security' of the Final Document adopted at the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in New Delhi, 7-8 April 1997".

(f) CD/1460, dated 26 May 1997, entitled "Letter dated 14 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting four documents signed at the Joint U.S.-Russian Summit Meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, on 21 March 1997, namely: A Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces, A Joint Statement by the Presidents of

the United States of America and the Russian Federation concerning the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, A Joint U.S.-Russian statement on European Security and A Joint Statement on Chemical Weapons".

(g) CD/1469, dated 24 July 1997, entitled "Letter dated 22 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a press release issued by the Government of Indonesia on 18 July 1997 concerning the subcritical nuclear weapon experiment conducted by the US Government on 2 July 1997".

(h) CD/1470, dated 5 August 1997, entitled "Letter dated 4 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a publication ertitled 'Confidence Building in the Arms Control Process: A Transformation View' by James Macintosh".

(i) CD/1471, dated 5 August 1997, entitled "Letter dated 4 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a publication entitled "Non-Proliferation Agreements, Arrangements and Responses: Proceedings of the 1996 Canadian Non-Proliferation Workshop' by the Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto (Canada)".

I. Consideration and Adoption of the Annual Report of the Conference and any other Report as Appropriate to the General Assembly of the United Nations

53. The Conference decided that the dates for its 1998 session would be:

First part: 19 January-27 March 1998

Second part: 11 May-26 June 1998

Third part: 27 July-9 September 1998

54. To promote substantive progress during its 1998 session, the Conference requested the current President and the incoming President to conduct appropriate consultations during the intersessional period and make recommendations, if possible, that could help to commence early work on various agenda items. These consultations may, inter alia, take into account views presented and discussions held in the 1997 session.

55. The annual report to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, as adopted by the Conference on 9 September 1997, is transmitted by the President on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament.

Bernard Goonetilleke
Sri Lanka
President of the Conference